

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD WINS APPOINTMENT TO CRITICAL TRANSPORTATION BILL CONFERENCE PANEL

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO), Chairman of the Senate Housing and Transportation Subcommittee, has been appointed a conferee on the House-Senate Conference Committee that will meet to work out differences between the U.S. House and Senate versions of the transportation bill.

“The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient (SAFE) Transportation Equity Act passed by the Senate gives Colorado a 46 percent increase in federal highway funding, providing Colorado with more than half of a billion dollars in additional funding over the next four years for highway construction,” Senator Allard said. “My conference committee appointment puts me in position to ensure that this pro-Colorado formula stays in the final version of the bill.”

“Under the Senate formula, Colorado is to receive the second-highest increase in highway funding of any state,” said Senator Allard, who was a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee when the legislation was drafted last year. “In addition, the legislation also includes an increase of 164 percent in funding for mass transit projects in Colorado, which we badly need.”

“It is important that the final legislation allows the State of Colorado to determine where these federal highway dollars can be spent to do the most good,” Senator Allard said.

The Senate formula translates into a 92 percent return on Coloradans’ federal highway taxes by 2009, up from the current 90 percent we are receiving now. The 46 percent increase comes on the heels of the 54 percent Senator Allard secured in the 1998 re-authorization of the transportation bill. The funding formula would provide Colorado with an additional \$150 million a year for four years on top of the current \$300 million a year, on average, the state receives now.

Senator Allard was appointed to the Transportation Equity Act Conference Committee by Majority Leader Bill Frist. The conference panel is expected to begin deliberations after Congress’ Memorial Day recess.

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